

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Objections

Examiner has objected to Claims 6, 13, and 21. Specifically, Examiner has stated in line 2 of Claims 6, 13 and 21 “magentic” should be changed to - - magnetic - -. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 6, 13 and 21.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Examiner has rejected Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 10, 12 – 18 and 20 – 22 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Soeno. In response Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 to include the limitations of: a first piezoelectric section sandwiched between said first outer inactive region and said inner inactive region, and a second piezoelectric section sandwiched between said second outer inactive region and said inner inactive region.

A description of this arrangement is found on page 4 of the application under the heading “Overview of the Operation of a Preferred Embodiment”:

As shown in FIG. 12, metallized end sections 21 and 22 of microactuator 18 are mounted to the bottom of flexure 2 via adhesive bonds 19. Piezoelectric section 42 is sandwiched between metallized end section 21 and middle section 23 and piezoelectric section 44 is sandwiched between metallized middle section 23 and metallized end section 22. (emphasis added)

FIG. 12 shows an example of microactuator 18 having piezoelectric section 42 sandwiched between metallized end sections 21 and metallized middle section 23, and piezoelectric section 44 sandwiched between metallized end section 22 and metallized middle section 23. By “sandwiched”, Applicant means that piezoelectric section 42 is rigidly attached to metallized end section 21 on one side and rigidly attached to metallized middle section 23 on its opposite side. Also, Applicant means that piezoelectric section 44 is rigidly attached to metallized end section 22 on one side and rigidly attached to metallized middle section 23 on its opposite side.

In stark contrast, Soeno does not show a first piezoelectric section sandwiched between said first outer inactive region and said inner inactive region, and a second piezoelectric section sandwiched between said second outer inactive region and said inner inactive region. Applicant's microactuator has a simple rectangular shape (see top view shown in FIG. 5B). All of Soeno's embodiments show configurations that are much more complicated. The simplicity of Applicant's device provides significant savings in the cost of manufacture.

Cancelled Claims

Applicant has cancelled Claims 16 – 19.

New Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 23 – 25.

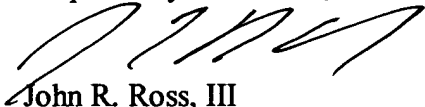
Summary

For the reasons stated above, Independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 should be allowable. All other Claims are dependent on Claims 1, 8 and 15 and should likewise be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Thus, for all the reasons given above, this application, as the claims are presently limited, define a novel, patentable, and truly valuable invention. Hence allowance of this application is respectfully submitted to be proper and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



John R. Ross, III
Ross Patent Law Office
Regis. No. 43060
PO Box 2138
Del Mar, CA 92014
Phone: 858-755-3122
Fax: 858-755-3122